CLAIMS

1. An actuating device for a parking brake in motor vehicles, comprising

a toothed segment (5) which is arranged on a bridge-type support (2) of the vehicle body;

a brake-actuating lever (4) which is articulated on the bridge-type support (2);

a coupling unit which tensions a brake cable in accordance with the displacement of the brake-actuating lever (4);

a fixing catch (7) which is articulated on the brake-actuating lever (4) and interacts with the toothed segment (5); a catch spring (11) for pretensioning the fixing catch (7) in the direction of the toothed segment (5); and

a linkage (14) which can be actuated along the brake-actuating lever (4),

characterized in

that the catch spring (7) is designed as a compression spring and engages on one end, which faces away from the toothed segment (5) of the fixing catch (7) which is designed as a double lever, and

that the linkage (14) displaces the fixing catch (7) out of engagement with the toothed segment (5) counter to the prestressing of the catch spring (11) only in the actuating state.

2. The actuating device according to claim 2, characterized in that the fixing catch (7) has, on its long lever (7b), which faces away from the toothing, a stop point (13) against which one end of the linkage (14), which end is remote from a handle of the brake-actuating lever, strikes in the actuating state.

3. The actuating device according to claim 2, characterized in that the stop point (13) is arranged on that side of the long lever (7b) of the fixing catch (7) which faces away from the catch spring (11).

4. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the fixing catch (7) has, on a short lever (7a) which faces the toothing (5), an engagement lug (8) which, when engaged with the toothing (5), fixes the brake-actuating lever (4) in its applied position.

5. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the linkage (14) has an axial guide (16) at the rear.

6. The actuating device according to claim 5, characterized in that the guide is formed by a slot (17) which is formed in the rear end of the linkage (4) and in which a pin (18) fastened to the brake-actuating lever (4) engages.

7. The actuating device according to claim 6, characterized in that the longitudinal axis of the slot (18) and the main axis of the catch spring (11) are arranged essentially parallel.

8. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the linkage (14) comprises a push rod (15) which is guided in an axially displaceable manner and is connected rigidly to a push button.

9. The actuating device according to claim 8, characterized in that the push rod (15) and the push button are acted upon continuously by the load of a compression spring which is supported on the hand-operated brake lever (4) and acts counter to the release direction.

10. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the fixing catch (7) is designed as a sheet-metal pressed part.

11. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that a resetting device is provided for the coupling unit.

12. The actuating device according to claim 11, characterized in that the resetting device for the coupling unit comprises a cable pulley which can be acted upon in the application direction of the brake cable by a spring load and can be coupled to the brake-actuating lever (4) by means of a circumferential toothing and a driving catch which is designed as a tilting lever and can be reversed as a function of the application path of the hand-operated brake lever.

13. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the brake-actuating lever (4) is formed in a hand-operated parking brake designed with a handle.

14. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 7 or 10 and 11, characterized in that the brake-actuating lever (4) is formed in a foot-operated parking brake designed with a pedal.

15. The actuating device according to claim 1 or 4 or one of claims 8 to 14, if referring back to claim 1 or 4, characterized in that the linkage (14) is structurally connected to the fixing catch (7).

16. The actuating device according to claim 15, characterized in that the linkage (14) and the fixing catch (7) are designed as a single part.

17. The actuating device according to claim 15 or 16, characterized in that the linkage (14) and the fixing catch (7) are produced integrally.

18. The actuating device according to one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that the linkage (14) and the fixing catch (7) are coupled via a slot in one of the two parts (7, 14) and a pin, which is arranged in the other of the two parts (7, 14) and engages in the slot, in such a manner that a pivoting movement the fixing catch (7) counter to the pretensioning of the catch spring (11) can be carried out without moving the linkage (14).

19. The actuating device according to claim 18, characterized in that when the linkage (14) is moved in the release direction, the fixing catch (7), on account of being carried along in a form-fitting manner, carries out a pivoting movement counter to the pretensioning of the catch spring (7).

20. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that only the catch spring (11) exerts a restoring force on the fixing catch (7).

21. The actuating device according to one of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that the fixing catch (7) is directly pivoted by an axial movement of the linkage (14).